

# Cut Torrance Tax Rate 24c

## THIS WEEK

Men and Their Churches;  
Temples of Faith

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

FAITH in God is fundamental to all human endeavor. As faith has waned in empires of the world's past, so those empires have fallen. For men must have a foundation of spirituality upon which to build their artificial monuments to earthly progress.

Let there be Faith and there will be everything else worth while that man on earth desires.

Unconsciously man seems to know this. For he supports his Temples of Faith despite the rush and hurry of modern business, progress and trade. His Temples of Faith are his churches. And well may he give of his worldly good to their support. For in the final analysis are they his outstanding guarantee that all else will permanently endure. And he knows it.

ALL of which remarks are called forth by the manner in which Torrance has supported the construction of the new Methodist church. It is Torrance this time and a Methodist church. The same determination of man that his Temples of Faith grow and prosper in their good works is brought out in other cities and in other denominations every day, every week, every year.

To quote from the report of the Torrance Methodist pastor:

"The new Methodist church, now nearing completion, has called forth a good deal of favorable comment. It has meant a real sacrificial service on the part of some people. All but about \$1,200 has been paid by members of the church, who are few in number and of very limited means. None deserve more credit than the Ladies' Aid society. These good women pledged \$2,500 to the building fund, and have already paid over \$1,500 in cash. They are not all members of the church, but are active members of this department. This splendid showing ought to stimulate the courage of others."

"Business men and others outside of the church have given some \$1,200 to this fund. The church greatly appreciates this generous spirit. Others will doubtless help when the opportunity comes. For when people come to look this church over, and see what it contemplates for the community, they will appreciate it more. And when one comes to think of the tens of thousands spent recklessly, and on mere trifles, surely this enterprise commends itself to all who have the public good at heart."

"From present signs this church will in a very short time have a membership of 200 or 300, with a constituency of 500. That means a strong influence for good in the community. The challenge now is to everybody who wants to conserve and build up the religious and business interests of our own city."

THE case related by the pastor is an example of what is happening every day in all corners of the civilized globe.

It proves the truth of the assertion that civilized men and women, confronted with the possibility of losing all of their institutions but one, would choose to retain the church above all else.

For the church typifies that certain hope of immortality that burns in the hearts of every person in the world—whether he admits it or not.

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MANY men who never go to church on Sunday, nevertheless, when called upon to give of their money and support for the growth of the church—regardless of sect—generally contribute generously.

For in their soul of souls they believe in the work that the church is doing—again regardless of sect.

It is a good sign. Though pastors sometimes look with alarm at empty pews on Sunday morning, nevertheless the deep spirit of religion and faith that men in herit from all of the ancestors, ages back, and which has been transformed from superstition to faith—that spirit is still strong and unquenched.

## Philadelphia Man Assists Dr. Leake

Dr. E. V. Askey of Philadelphia is assisting Dr. N. A. Leake of Torrance in his practice. Dr. and Mrs. Askey are staying for the present at the home of Dr. Leake.

## LANCASTER RESIGNS TO AID HEALTH LABORATORY PLAN

Requesting the board of trustees to enter into a contract with five other cities and the county for the maintenance of a public health laboratory at Redondo, which would provide excellent facilities for Torrance laboratory work and take care of sanitary inspection in the five cities, Dr. J. S. Lancaster Tuesday night presented his resignation as health officer of the city of Torrance, to take effect September 1. Inasmuch as the proposed laboratory could not be put into operation for another month, Dr. Lancaster stated in his letter that he would serve without pay until October 1.

The doctor pointed out that there is no state laboratory nearer than



NINTH YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST, 17, 1923

NO. 32

## Valuation Boost Permits Trustees To Set 98c Rate

### Assessments of City Property Are Increased to \$5,943,130, a Boost of More Than Two Million

## CITY DADS PREPARE NEW BUDGET

### Will Cost City \$66,000 to Operate During Ensuing Twelve Months, but Lower Tax Is Enough

Torrance trustees Tuesday night reduced city taxes 24 cents. The rate for the year of 1922 and 1923 was \$1.22 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation. For next year it will be 98 cents.

The reduction was made possible because of an increased assessed valuation in the city of more than two million dollars. The assessed valuation for 1922-23 was \$3,906,560. It has been set for next year at \$5,943,130. The exact increase is \$2,036,570.

The reduction in city taxes was made without setting up financial handicaps for the coming fiscal year.

Going carefully over the budget for 1923-24, the local trustees were confronted with the difficulty of estimating the growth of Torrance and the resulting increase in city expenditures. But they proceeded cautiously, spending several hours on estimates.

### Presents Budget Report

Trustee E. H. Nash presented a detailed report on the budget for the coming year. Each item was discussed at length by the trustees. When the needs of all departments had been thoroughly canvassed it was clear that the city will need approximately \$66,000 during the coming year. This amount will pay for all current expenses, will retire bonds and pay interest on outstanding bonds, and provide for payments on the fire-truck purchased on contract by the city.

With a city tax of 98 cents, 8 cents of which will be for the sinking fund to care for bonds and interest, the revenue to the city will total \$55,142.67. Two per cent must be allowed for collection of taxes. With this deduction the revenue from taxation will be reduced to \$56,979.33.

### \$12,000 Income

Income of the city for licenses, permits, and other sources of municipal revenue other than taxes will total approximately \$12,000. This amount, added to the tax revenue, will bring the total revenue to \$68,979.33.

With the budget calling for \$66,000, this will leave the city approximately \$3,000 over and above estimated expenditures. But the city will enter the approaching fiscal year with a deficit, which will charge off this excess.

### County Tax Higher

It is known that the county taxes will be much higher for next year. Despite increased assessed valuation all over the county, the supervisors. It is known that the county taxes to meet the county expenses without a substantial increase in the tax rate.

A comparison of the assessed valuation of Torrance for this year as against that of last year reveals the following figures:

The real estate valuation last year was \$1,187,740. For this year it is \$2,193,740—an increase of

\$1,005,870. Improvements on real estate were increased \$54,270, from \$920,330 to \$974,600. It should be noted here that many improvements have been started since the assessments were made.

Personal property valuation was increased \$645,363, from \$1,458,365 to \$2,103,728.

### A Lot More Money

Valuation on money and solvent credits was increased from \$286,440 to \$445,070—an advance of \$158,630.

Unsecured personal property was \$77,135. It now is valued at \$266,145, giving an increase of \$191,010.

In preparing the city budget for the ensuing year Mr. Nash reported that the cost of running the city of Torrance for the year 1922-1923 was \$36,667, plus \$7,387 which went into the sinking fund for the retirement of bonds, and interest on outstanding indebtedness. So the total cost was \$44,054.

### Here's Comparison

A comparison of costs for various departments is appended below, showing the cost last year and the amount estimated for next year. It must be remembered that the increases in many instances are not as great as they may seem, because of the fact that some departments have not been operating for a full year and that some salaries of city employees were raised during the year:

Item	Last Yr.	Next Yr.
Clerk, sal. and exp.	\$2,710	\$3,600
Treasurer, sal., exp.	375	375
Attorney, sal., exp.	1,850	2,500
Office supplies	285	350
Rent	600	600
Auditing	190	200
Printing, publishing	910	1,000
City engineer, salary and exp.	3,650	4,000
Music, promotion	55	200
Fire Dept. salaries	160	2,000
Fire Dept. expenses	875	875
Police salaries	5,512	10,000
Police expenses	2,360	3,000
Bldg. inspection	75	200
Compensation ins.	292	350
Street lighting	1,375	2,500
Hydrant rental	1,740	2,500
Health Dept.	340	1,000
Garbage disposal	1,200	2,500
Sewer system, exp.	2,180	1,000
Sewer connections	1,460	1,500
Sewer farm exp.	880	500
Street Supt., salary and exp.	1,560	2,000
Street repair, labor	1,570	2,500
Street, rep., material	800	5,000
Street cleaning	1,550	2,000
Park maintenance	1,150	1,500
Alley cleaning	350	1,000
Truck expense	120	250
Park Dept., exp.	376	2,000
Playground, exp.	430	1,000
Total	\$36,667	\$57,875

### WOMEN'S CLUB PARTY

The members of the Women's club are planning a party to be given at the home of the president, Mrs. J. A. Young, as the opening event of the club season.

### TAXI FOR TORRANCE

Trustees Tuesday night granted a license to Jack Hanson to operate a taxicab, with a stand at the P. E. station.

### COMPLETE APARTMENT

The M. L. May four-flat apartment house in the real of 1553 Marcelina was completed this week and is now ready for occupancy.

## TRUSTEES ACT IN BORDER AVE. OIL MIXUP

### Pass Rezoning Ordinance Through Its First Reading

### LAND CO. IS ON JOB

### Serves Default Notice in City Drilling Tilt

Torrance trustees Tuesday night took steps to prevent drilling for oil on lots 9, 10 and 11, block 35, in Torrance tract, when they unanimously passed the first reading of an ordinance rezoning blocks 36, 37 and 38 into class 5. The action of the trustees followed the spirited controversy that came in the wake of the proposed erection of a derrick on lots 9, 10 and 11.

### Permit Granted

Under the zoning ordinance, which classified the property as industrial property, a permit for the erection of an oil derrick was issued to M. H. Murray, a Los Angeles contractor.

The real trouble started when the Dominguez Land corporation, in order to protect the validity of its declaration under the terms of which all land in the Torrance tract was sold, took action. The zoning ordinance of the city, as it affects this particular property, does not comply with the restrictions set forth in the corporation's declaration. Apprised of the fact that a permit had been issued, the Dominguez corporation immediately notified all persons who hold or have held contracts for the purchase of the lots in question that the contracts would be cancelled because of abrogation of the declaration's restrictions and because the contract had been assigned without consent of the company.

### Served on Three

These notices of intention to default on contracts were served on E. H. Nash, who sold the property some time ago to Harry Dolley, upon Harry Dolley, and upon Mr. Knapp of Long Beach.

At the same time city officials company, with the result that the rezoning ordinance was introduced Tuesday night.

Passage of the ordinance by the trustees, which is considered certain, places the oil company in the position of having paid a bonus and secured a permit for the erection of an oil derrick. Whether the company will carry the fight into legal channels has not been ascertained.

### Change Other Lots

In the ordinance which passed first reading Tuesday, lots 72, 73, 74, and 85, southwest of the Columbia Steel corporation plant, are also changed from industrial property to the wholesale and retail business and the dwelling classification. Lot 14 in block 19 and lot 25 in block 35 are changed so that second-class dwellings may be erected on them. Previous restrictions called for first-class dwellings only.

## PUT TABOO ON CHAPLIN FILM IN TORRANCE

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. McVey, managers of the Torrance theatre, announced Wednesday that they had acceded to the wishes of residents of Torrance and will not exhibit the Charles Chaplin film, "The Pilgrim," on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 23 and 24. Objection to the Chaplin film was made on the ground that the comedian burlesques the ministerial profession. "If anyone in Torrance sees in 'The Pilgrim' an insult to the ministry," said Mr. McVey, "certainly I do not wish to exhibit the film here. Of course we did not book the film for the purpose of embarrassing the ministry. But since objection is made, despite the fact that it was made somewhat late, we will stand the loss of \$75 which we must pay for the film under contract, whether we run it or not, and will substitute a first-class picture in its stead."

## Week Sees Seven Wells Spudded In and More Located

### Southwest Extension Draws Attention as Union Locates Two More Outpost Wells Near Weston No. 1

## DERRICKS ARE RISING IN LOMITA

### New Development in Southeast Unabated as Drills Bite Soil and Crews Race for Saturated Sands

The Bush Drilling company will stake out a location for a new well and erect a derrick on the corner of the old Redondo road and Arlington street within the next few days, it was announced this morning. The lease is in tract 639. A well here probably would force the Hub Oil company to drill two offset wells and the Chanslor-Canfield to offset with one.

Spreading development over an area which, if proven up by producers, will become the largest oil field in California, oil companies during the past week have spudded in seven wells, started rigging up 15 more, and begun work of erecting seven new derricks since last Wednesday.

A tour of the Torrance-Lomita field of operations today will take one from the limits of Redondo east to Keystone, south to the Union Oil company's Ellinwood lease west of Lomita, and east of Lomita to the Torrance-Lomita Royalties property, to be developed by C. C. Julian.

### Drift Is South

Around the Midway Northern producer on the old Redondo road, where derricks during the past week have been reared almost overnight, leases that were unmarked by derricks three weeks ago now are being drilled with a haste that challenges comparison in all California.

With certainty the drift of the development is from the old proven area to the southeast, where that new producer ushered in an era of feverish activity and where restaurant buildings and equipment camps are being constructed with unprecedented speed.

Far to the east in Keystone, Keystone No. 1 is drilling ahead, with reported excellent showings. West of this well, the Shell company is rigging up. Still farther east, the Standard is drilling.

### Strike Difficulties

Dominguez No. 1 is working under difficulties never before encountered in the Torrance field. Getting off to a flying start, right after spudding in the Standard crew encountered hard layers of earth and rock at around 700 feet. The drill is down only 900 feet now, after three weeks' drilling, and the going is hard.

South of the Standard's most easterly well, and along the old Redondo road, the Sentinel Oil company has spudded in. Offsetting the Sentinel to the east, the Superior Oil company (W. M. Keck) is ready to rig up.

Come west on the old Redondo road and turn down Narbonne avenue toward Lomita. To the west, near Fir street, the Petroleum Midway company has spudded in Houts No. 1. Offsetting this well on the east, the U. S. Royalties company is building a derrick. To the northeast of this, but apart from the cluster of derricks on the old Redondo road, the Empire Drilling company is putting up a derrick.

### Down 1200 Feet

On West Acacia street the For-

tuna Oil company has been drilling a week on Phenix No. 1, and is down 1200 feet.

The Bush Drilling company is ready to erect a derrick on Acacia on the Abercrombie lease, the second acre off Narbonne.

Farther south still the Federal Oil company has a derrick up at Narbonne and Elgin on the Gurney lease.

Over to the east C. C. Julian will soon spud in on the property formerly held by the Torrance-Lomita Royalties company. The derrick is already standing.

### Union's Operations

Standing as outpost on the southwestern limits of the field's development is the Union Oil company's Weston No. 1. The usual cloak of secrecy thrown about the operations of the Union company has guarded this well, but the company is erecting a derrick for its second well on this lease—an indication that substantiates reports of production on Weston No. 1—and has located Ellinwood No. 1 on the Ellinwood lease, southwest of Weston No. 1.

Back on the old Redondo road, where the development has attracted the entire oil world, the clang of drill pipe mingles with the sharp reports of the exhausts from five wells which have been spudded in during the past seven days.

### Petroleum Midway Leads

Leading by many lengths of pipe, the Petroleum Midway's Wilson Community No. 1 has been drilling a week. This well offsets the Midway Northern producer.

Other wells which have been spudded in in this area during the week are the Petroleum Midway Houts No. 1; the George F. Getty well, offsetting the Midway Northern on the east; Shelby & Root's Special; Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil company's Torrance No. 14, east of the Keck wells on the north side of the road; and the Petroleum Securities (Doheny—formerly Pan-American) Torrance No. 1, the most westerly well on the south side of the road.

### Will Locate Six

The Petroleum Securities company is erecting another derrick for Torrance No. 2, just south of the company's Torrance No. 1. This company will develop the east side of its Marble ranch lease with six wells, at least. The lease is 100 square acres.

On the south side of the old Redondo road derrick finishing and rigging up is being rushed on the Chanslor-Canfield's Torrance Nos. 13, 15, 16, and 17. The Superior's two wells, Sheigheber No. 1 and No. 2, are rigging up.

(Continued on Last Page)

## AMERICAN LEGION THANKS ALL WHO HELPED PUT OVER FIESTA

The Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, American Legion, takes this means of expressing its sincere appreciation and thanks to the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trustees of the city of Torrance, the Torrance Herald, the Torrance Breeze, the business people of Torrance and surrounding communities, the citizens of Torrance and vicinity, and the Carlton Exposition company, for their loyal support and co-operation manifested to make the 1923 Exposition and Fiesta an unqualified success. It must be remembered that this was the first attempt on the part of the American Legion to stage an affair of this kind in Torrance, and the experience gained this year will be of tremendous benefit next year in case the post stages that year's affair.

The wonderful spirit of civic pride that put the 1923 event over in 100% style is sure to react to cement together all Torrance factions and interests, which can only mean more and better work for the common good. As Americans and American Legion members our highest tribute to the community is that we are proud to be residents thereof.

BERT S. CROSSLAND POST NO. 170, AMERICAN LEGION.